

REMARKS

Claims 13-14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 15-17 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-12 and 15-17 are pending in this application.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority. Submitted herewith is a certified copy of the corresponding Japanese patent application (JP 2001-136827, filed May 8, 2001). An indication that this document has been safely received would be appreciated.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants are submitting herewith a revision of the Form PTO-1449 filed on August 29, 2001. The submitted Form PTO-1149 has been revised to reflect that an English-language abstract was submitted with JP 2000-293102. The submitted Form PTO-1449 has also been revised to list additional and more accurate information for the listed non-patent references AR and AS, including full title, author, publisher, publication date, and pertinent chapters. This information has also been amended in the specification for the AR reference so that the information listed in the specification is more accurate. No English-language translation of the cited non-

patent references is readily available to Applicants. However, a concise explanation of their relevance and the relevance of JP 2000-293102 is included in the specification of the present application at pages 1-2. Accordingly, because a concise explanation of the relevance of these documents is incorporated in Applicants' specification in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3)(i), no further explanation of these documents is believed to be required.

Applicants have also filed on an even date herewith an additional Information Disclosure Statement that discloses three documents cited in a Search Report dated April 22, 2005, issued by the European Patent Office for a corresponding European application.

35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 2-6 and 8-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In response, these claims have been amended to address the Examiner's concerns, and the amended claims are believed to now be definite and distinct within the requirements of section 112.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Brown et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,671,805). These rejections are traversed as follows.

The present invention, as claimed, includes a feature of detecting and displaying a range of a digital signature object to which a digital signature is applied (see, e.g., element 101/1101 in FIGS. 1, 8 and 11). The cited reference to Brown et al. discloses a to-be-signed tag 110 at column 8, lines 35-47, which indicates a part of a document to be signed. However, Brown et al. do not disclose displaying the range of the signed part of the document (see, e.g., FIGS. 4D and 4E of Brown). Accordingly, Brown et al. do not teach displaying the content of partial data and the detected range of the partial data on the same screen, as recited in claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Brown et al. and the other art of record, taken either singly, or in combination. Independent claim 7 includes a limitation similar to claim 1, and, is therefore allowable over Brown et al. for the same reasons as claim 1.

Furthermore claims 4, 5, 10 and 11 are clearly distinguishable from Brown et al., since claims 4 and 10 recite that the display means displays the content of the partial data and the information obtained as a result of the analyzing on the same screen so that they may be associated with each other. Brown et al., on the other hand, does not disclose in what relation or how the to-be-signed tag and the information regarding the digital signature are displayed on a screen. Accordingly, claims 4, 5, 10, and 11 are further patentable over the disclosure of Brown et al.

The remaining claims are also believed to be allowable, at least because they depend from allowable base claims.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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